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CIA/RP/77-10329--M

JA 10

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

MICROFILMED

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE US STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS
(16-22 December 1977)

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LATIN AMERICA

- Argentine authorities now appear to be backing off from a claim that the recent disappearance of some 15 persons associated with the group known as the "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" was the work of Montonero terrorists. The Plaza de Mayo demonstrators, who had been pressing the government to account for their missing relatives, were viewed as being opposed to the government and even as inadvertent allies of antigovernment forces. The scope of the abduction operation and the number of witnesses indicate that the disappearance was not a terrorist act. Navy Secretary General Admiral Fracassi, meanwhile, has given Ambassador Castro some insight into the government's deliberations over human rights cases. Fracassi said that the Foreign Ministry has passed to the armed forces a list of 15 cases believed to be of interest to the US, with a view to determining what ameliorative action could be taken on political grounds. Although there is disagreement within the armed forces over what should be done, it is possible that amnesty could be

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*granted in several of the cases, including that of Jacobo
Timarman. the incarcerated editor of La Opinion.*

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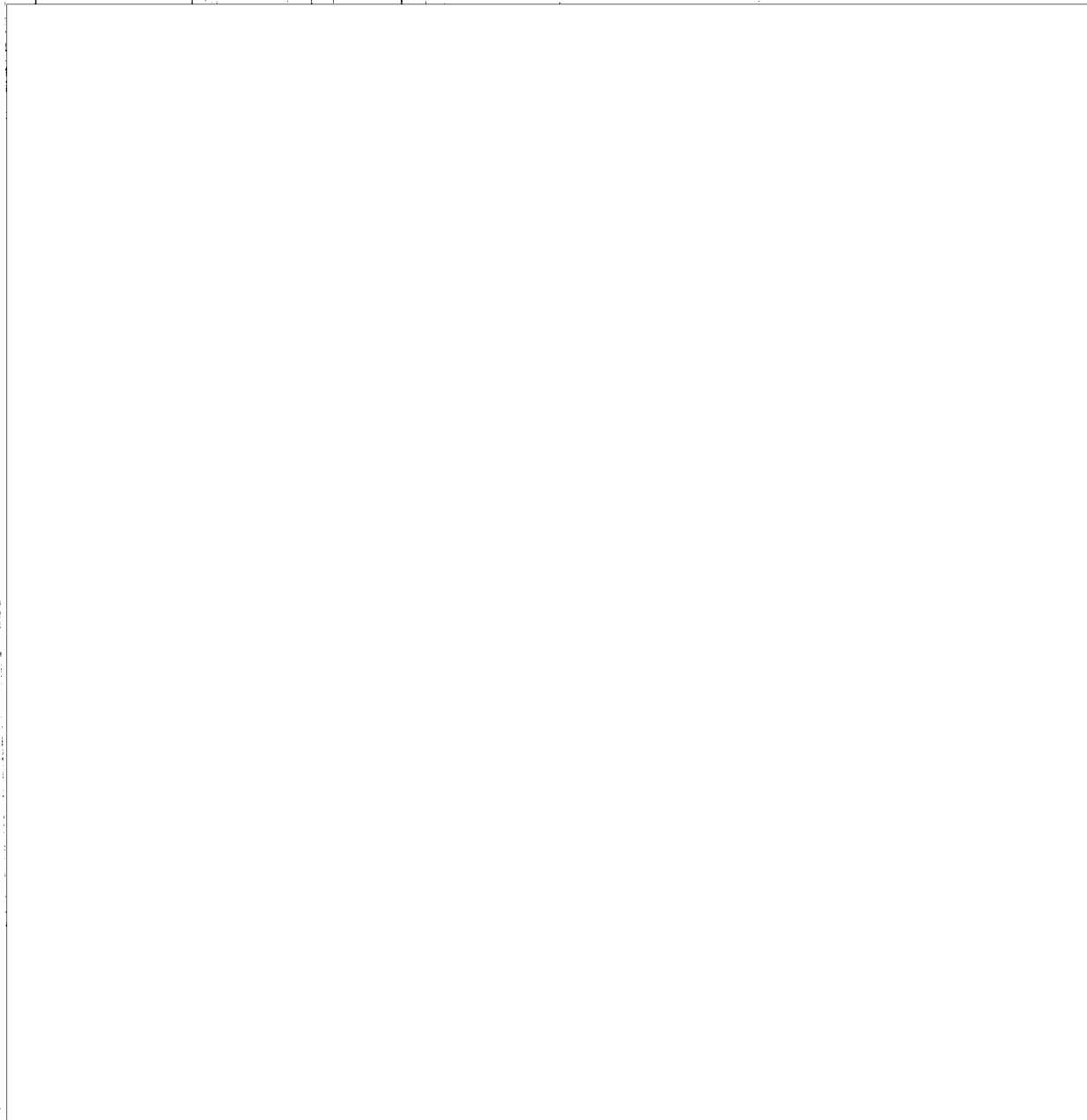
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